

Hello, I am reaching out here as well, I already sent in feedback through the google form from your website.

I am reaching out to let you, as the parent company of iNaturalist.org, know that the staff and forum moderators of iNaturalist .org and the iNaturalist forums are violating your company's promise to be safe, welcoming, and inclusive to diverse people, including Queer / LGBTQIA+ / MOGAI people.

iNaturalist

One week ago now, a user in the iNaturalist forums thread, "LGBTQIA+ and iNaturalist" left a response saying that she was going to misgender me. I responded explaining that this was not okay, as did several other users.

Eventually she made another post saying she was going to continue to misgender me, and admits that she knows this is wrong, but she's going to do it anyways. Again, several users, myself included, corrected this and explained that it is not okay.

The iNaturalist staff's response to what should have been a minor situation has been absolutely abhorrent, and has transformed it into an absolute nightmare of transmisia.

The staff have done nothing, from the start, except victim blame, tone police, and treat criticizing bigotry as /worse/ than being bigoted in the first place. They refuse to remove the two posts that purposefully misgender me despite not only me, but several other users, asking them to multiple times and explaining over and over again that it's not okay.

They have now officially banned me from the forums for asking not to be misgendered, and are claiming that my post where I ask the person misgendering me to remove my posts are "inappropriate" and "offensive".

They have literally decided that asking not to be misgendered is infinitely more offensive than purposefully misgendering someone. They have banned me and hidden many of the posts criticizing this blatant bigotry, and continue to relentlessly defend and double down on their transmisic decisions

to prioritize the feelings of cis people over respecting the identity of trans people. Their official stance is that trans people must compromise on our identities to make sure cis people don't get upset, because using our pronouns is too upsetting and uncomfortable for them.

Pride month starts tomorrow, and iNaturalist has chosen, blatantly and shamelessly, to defend bigots over doing anything to support the trans userbase they claim they love, welcome, and support.

This situation is absolutely horrific and I am shocked and disgusted that it has reached this point. Up until now I'd thought the staff of iNaturalist were mature, thoughtful adults who could be trusted to know right from wrong, especially when half a dozen users have explained why the situation is not okay before they even took any action.

I expect you'll be receiving several messages like this over the next few days as more people become aware of the situation and realize that something needs to be done about it.

I hope that I'm not wasting my time by reaching out to you like this. I hope that something will be done to resolve this problem that shouldn't have been a problem in the first place.

I want iNaturalist to publicly apologize for the behavior of the staff in this incident, on the main site, not just the forums, with each staff member who participated in this incident giving a personal public apology.

I want the two specific posts that misgender me to be removed from the forums.

I want clear and irrefutable policy to be put in place to prevent anything like this from ever happening again.

I thought iNaturalist was somewhere that I, as a trans and nonbinary person, could be welcome.

The staff this week have done nothing but prove me wrong over and over, getting more and more bigoted with each response to the community's desperate plea for them to simply listen and remove the bigoted posts.

Thank you for reading.

Here is a link to the LGBTQIA+ and iNaturalist thread where the misgendering posts will probably still be up by the time you get back in the office to read this: <https://forum.inaturalist.org/t/lgbtqia-and-inaturalist/23565/269>

LGBTQIA+ and iNaturalist

Here is a link to the separate thread the staff created to hide our responses from the rest of the community, where they do nothing but

continuously refuse to accept responsibility, refuse to listen to the Queer community, victim blame, and tone police:

<https://forum.inaturalist.org/t/moderation-decisions-about-several-posts-in-the-lgbtqia-thread/42122>

Moderation decisions about several posts in the LGBTQIA+ Thread

So that this is easier to read than having to scroll through Facebook messages, and for posterity and accountability, I'm uploading this text, with the typos fixed, to the web archive.